



Healthy Waters
Institute®

A program of The Freshwater Trust.

Healthy Waters Institute connects students with their local watersheds by getting them out of the classroom and into their local rivers and streams. Students get their hands dirty and their feet wet by participating in field experiences and restoration projects. Healthy Waters Institute allows teachers to go beyond the classroom by providing hands-on learning opportunities that result in connecting our students to the natural world.

Healthy Waters Institute is made up of four education programs: 1000 Drops, Salmon Watch, Student Stewardship Projects and Hometown Waters.

Healthy Waters Institute works collaboratively with teachers, school administration and community partners to provide a supportive framework through which schools can easily offer students multiple interactions with the natural world relevant to existing curricula. By uniting education, community and local stewardship, Healthy Waters Institute takes an active role in cultivating the next generation of freshwater caretakers.

1000 Drops

Upper Elementary and Middle School

1000 Drops provides an interdisciplinary approach to watershed education for upper elementary students. The curriculum is designed to serve as a port of entry for students into the watershed in which they live. Guiding students through a thoughtful process to examine the path of their water drop, 1000 Drops seeks to encourage students to develop a more informed sense of place and a closer connection to their home waters through hands-on, inquiry-based educational activities. The activities in 1000 Drops inform and equip students to better understand the cycle of their local waters. By tracing water from the roof of their school to the schoolyard and beyond, students learn about immediate impacts to the health of local waters.



Salmon Watch

Middle and High School

Since 1993, The Freshwater Trust's award-winning Salmon Watch has been an effective environmental education program serving middle and high school students in Oregon. Enabling students to witness spawning salmon – one of nature's great spectacles – coupled with classroom instruction and service learning projects, the program is designed to instill a deeper appreciation and understanding of the value of native wild fish, watershed conservation and environmental stewardship.

2008 Salmon Watch: In the Numbers

65 Trips on
Forest
Service Land

180
Teachers

83
Schools

152
Field Trips

5318
Students



Student Stewardship Projects

All grades

Student Stewardship Projects provide students with the opportunity to become truly engaged in the maintenance and preservation of their local watershed. Project ideas are student driven and address local issues related to watershed health. Students participate in place-based, service learning projects ranging from scientific investigations to creative arts explorations. Students have opportunities to present their findings and share their creations with their peers and communities through HWI publications, website, student summits and local events.

“This project was a great experience to learn about the watershed I live in and how it can be restored. It was great to learn how to help restore salmon habitat.”

– Amanda Krewkow, David Douglas High School student

Hometown Waters

All grades

Hometown Waters is a dynamic, interdisciplinary planning and resource tool intended to help students gain a comprehensive understanding of all aspects of their local watershed related to geography, hydrology, ecology, history, demographics, climate and local land and water issues. Hometown Waters can be used by individual classroom teachers to assist with the integration of regionally specific, place-based learning or district wide as a cross-curricular thread weaving, scaffolding and connecting relevant watershed educational experiences for students grades K-12. Hometown Waters helps students understand how water moves through their watershed, how the actions of the citizens of the watershed affect the water, and how each student’s life is impacted by the health of their local waters. Hometown Waters also provides resources to assist classrooms in connecting with local community partners and engaging students in field-based service learning projects.

